

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7353

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCLANT

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02897

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY

REF: (A) USNATO 403 (NOTAL) DTG 241220Z JAN 76;

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(B) PARIS 30951, DTG 262126Z NOV 75;

(C) PARIS 33684, DTG 241750Z DEC 75

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST TUCKER'S PROPOSAL (REF A) FOR MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH SUBSTANCE OF INTEROPERABILITY. FRENCH TOOK EARLY LEAD IN FOCUSING NATO ATTENTION ON PROBLEMS OF INTEROPERABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE PROGRESS IN MEETING THOSE PROBLEMS THROUGH ALLIANCE-WIDE COOPERATION. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH DCM, DELPECH (GOF ARMAMENT DIRECTOR) REITERATED CONTINUED FRENCH INTEREST IN WORKING WITH ALLIES TO ACHIEVE GREATER INTEROPERABILITY. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION, DELPECH MENTIONED MOST OF THE AREAS DESCRIBED BY TUCKER AS MAJOR AREAS FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE'S CONCENTRATION.

2. RECOMMENDATION: IN LIGHT OF DELPECH'S CONTINUED PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT, AND AGAINST BACKGROUND OF OUR EARLIER ANALYSES THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD GOF SUPPORT FOR PRAGMATIC IMPROVEMENTS CONCERNING NATO INTEROPERABILITY (REFS B AND C), WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT AND US NATO EXAMINE WHETHER NATO SHOULD SEEK TO ENGAGE FRENCH AS A MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN NATO'S WORK PROGRAM ON INTEROPERABILITY, PERHAPS IN CAREFULLY SELECTED LEADERSHIP ROLE. AFTER ALL, FRENCH TOOK MAJOR ROLE IN SHAPING DEFINITION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE'S MANDATE. THEY SHOULD HAVE SIMILAR RESPONSIBILITY IN ITS EXECUTION. WHILE WE MAY NOT HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON ALL RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS, THERE COULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO ENGAGE FRENCH ENERGIES IN A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE FRAMEWORK. IN PAST, FRENCH HAVE BEEN MOST RELUCTANT TO ASSUME THIS SORT OF ROLE IN MILITARILY RELATED NATO PROJECTS, AND THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE AGAIN WITH INTEROPERABILITY. BUT IT'S WORTH A TRY.
GAMMON

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